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REPORT

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AGROMETEOROLOGY AIDS AGRICULTURE

The Agrometeorological Service operates through a system of agrometeorological stations located in individual places. Observations are transmitted to central stations, which compile and disseminate reports to the Republic Councils for Agriculture, the Ministries of Agriculture, other agricultural establishments, and interested agencies, such as state farms, farm-work cooperatives, and farms.

The Agrometeorological Service has determined that Yugoslavia has two different climatic agricultural zones, divided by a boundary running from Baranja to Osijek-Vinkovci-Valjevo. Climatic observation has shown that since fall 1950 Yugoslavia has had a dry climate in the eastern zone (the Vojvodina and Serbia), which interfered with fall sowing. To a lesser degree, rainfall interfered with fall sowing and winter plowing in the western zone. In 1951, the rainy season also interfered with the early spring sowing.

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The early spring of 1951 caused the fruit trees to blossom early. A sudden period of coolness in the beginning of March would have caused extensive damage but for the predictions of the Agrometeorological Service, enabling protective measures to be taken. This, however, was not done everywhere, resulting in local damage to fruit (almonds, apricots, peaches, plums) in the Primorje.

Even though there was no snow, vegetable crops in Croatia wintered well as there was no freezing. But much damage was caused by rain in the lowlands where the soil is not very porous.

The mild winter was very favorable to livestock, which spent much time in the pastures. The livestock are in fairly good condition, for the pasture was good. A mild winter saved much livestock in individual areas. In the event of a big snow, the animals would have had to be killed, because of a lack of fodder.

Vineyards wintered well, for there was plenty of moisture under the surface, and a good crop is expected.

The Agrometeorological Branch for Croatia is in Zagreb, Kaciceva Ulica 9. The telephone number is 38-842.

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